

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
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O 021008Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3642

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TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR RH UK  
SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE : INTER-DELEGATION MEETING ON  
THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT

1. I CALLED ON RICHARD THE EVENING OF DEC 1 TO REVIEW  
THE RESULTS OF THE 5:00 MEETING WITH THE 5 DELEGATIONS.  
THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO RICHARD, WAS EVERY BIT AS  
AGGRESSIVE AND DISAPPOINTING AS THE PRESS HAS REPORTED.

2. MUGABE ARRIVED VERY LATE TO THE SESSION. NO SOONER  
HAD HE ENTERED THAN VAN DER BYL COMPLAINED ABOUT MUGABE'S  
LATENESS. MUGABE SHOT BACK "IF WE HAVE WAITED 11 YEARS,  
HE CAN WAIT 10 MINUTES." VAN DER BYL HOTLY RETORTED  
"YOU DON'T DESERVE YOUR INDEPENDENCE UNTIL YOU LEARN  
SOME MANNERS." MUGABE REJOINED "I WON'T TAKE THAT KIND  
OF NONSENSE FROM A BLOODY FOOL LIKE YOU."

3. RICHARD RESTORED ORDER AND ASKED HENRY STEEL TO  
PRESENT BRITISH THINKING ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT.  
STEEL'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWED THAT GIVEN TO SITHOLE  
AND MUZOREWA ON NOVEMBER 30 (GENEVA 9553).

4. NKOMO TOOK THE FLOOR FIRST AND DISCUSSED THE  
CHAIRMAN'S NOTE ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PARAGRAPH  
BY PARAGRAPH. RICHARD DESCRIBED NKOMO'S PRESENTATION  
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AS LOGICAL AND SENSIBLE. HE THEN TURNED THE MICROPHONE

OVER TO THE RHODESIANS AND VAN DER BYL PREDICTABLY RESTATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THE FIVE POINTS REPRESENTED A BINDING CONTRACT. THE MOOD OF THE CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY BECAME VENOMOUS AGAIN. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SAID THAT AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED, THE FIVE POINTS DID NOT EXIST. MARK PARTRIDGE ARGUED THE NATIONALISTS ARE BEING INCONSISTENT. "IF YOU SAY THE FIVE POINTS ARE A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, THEN LET'S BEGIN BY DISCUSSING THEM." HE WENT ON TO CRITICIZE THE BRITISH FOR PAYING AFRICAN DELEGATIONS TO LIVE RICHLY IN GENEVA.

5. WITH SOME DIFFICULTY, RICHARD GOT THE DISCUSSION BACK ON THE TRACKS. HE DUCKED NKOMO AND MUGABE'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY DISCUSS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S AGENDA AND THE FRONT DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT. RICHARD ASKED EACH DELEGATION TO PREPARE DETAILED PAPERS ON THEIR POSITIONS, NOTING THAT THE PATIOTIC FRONT'S WRITTEN PRESENTATION WAS SKELETAL. NO SOONER HAD RICHARD MADE HIS POINT THAN VAN DER BYL INSISTED ON PASSING OUT SMITH'S SEPT 24 SPEECH AS HIS DELEGATION'S PAPER. THE FRONT ATTACKED RICHARD FOR FAILING TO DISTRIBUTE THE SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA POSITIONS. MUZOREWA JUMPED INTO THE FRAY AND REMINDED HIS NATIONALIST COLLEAGUES THAT HIS PAPER HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TWO WEEKS AGO. MUGABE SAID IT HAD NOT. NKOMO THEN RECALLED HE HAD SEEN THE MUZOREWA PAPER.

6. RICHARD SUCCEEDED ONCE AGAIN IN RESTORING ORDER AND OBTAINED COMMITMENTS FROM THE FRONT AND MUZOREWA TO PRESENT LONGER PAPERS AT THE DEC 2 MEETING. HE THEN ADJOURNED THE DISAGREEABLE SESSION.

7. THE PRESS MET MUGABE AT THE DOOR. MUGABE STOPPED AND AS HE BEGAN TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT, VAN DER BYL BUMPED INTO HIM. MUGABE TURNED TO THE PRESS AND REFERRED TO VAN DER BYL AS "THAT BLOODY FOOL." VAN DER BYL FLICKED THE ASH FROM HIS LONG CUBAN CIGAR ON MUGABE'S SHOULDER AND STRODE OFF.

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8. RICHARD DINED WITH CHONA THE SAME EVENING AND TELLS US THAT HE RECEIVED A PRESENTATION VERY SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH CHONA GAVE WISNER (GENEVA 9552). HE URGED RICHARD TO BE LESS SUSPICIOUS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND PRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE RHODESIA SETTLEMENT.

9. KAMANA, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE DINNER, RAISED WITH RICHARD THE POSSIBILITY OF ZIMBABWE REACHING INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT ELECTIONS AND THEREBY ENSURING LONGER WHITE PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. RICHARD DISMISSED KAMANA'S POINT COLDLY SAYING THAT UNDER NO CONDITION WOULD BRITAIN GRANT INDEPENDENCE IF ELECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN HELD.

10. AS A RESULT OF THE CHONA MEETING, RICHARD PLANS TO CONTACT LONDON AND SUGGEST THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COORDINATE ITS POSITION WITH US. HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT STRONGLY WORDED LETTERS TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED. RICHARD SUGGESTED THAT THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE REMIND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT THE IDEA OF A COUNCIL OF STATE WAS DISCUSSED AND COMMUNICATED IN WRITING TO THE PRESIDENTS. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE PRESIDENTS HAVE CONVENIENTLY FORGOTTEN THIS FACT AND HAVE GONE OVERBOARD. IF THERE IS TO BE ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT AND ANY REASONABLE DEGREE OF POWER SHARING, SOMETHING LIKE THE COUNCIL OF STATE WILL HAVE TO BE RESURRECTED. RICHARD PLANS TO RECOMMEND THAT CALLAGHAN HINT IN HIS LETTERS THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A GREATER DEGREE OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT - PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF A BRITISH CHAIRMAN FOR A BODY SIMILAR TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE. THE CHAIRMAN, IN RICHARD'S JUDGMENT, WHO COULD BE THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, COULD ENJOY TIE BREAKING POWERS. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO REMIND THE PRESIDENTS THAT THE US, BRITAIN AND POSSIBLY SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT PERMIT A SECOND UDI.CATTO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INDEPENDENCE, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-A  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GENEVA09597  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P840099-0817  
**From:** GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761279/aaaacqvf.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIA CONFERENCE: INTER-DELEGATION MEETING ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDEV, UK, RH, (VAN DER BYL, PIETER), (RICHARD, IVOR), (MUGABE, ROBERT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006